

Att'y Dkt. No. 003-078

U.S. App. No.: 10/662,376

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration, reexamination, and allowance of the present patent application are respectfully requested.

**Allowable Subject Matters**

Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication at pages 1 and 2 of the Office Action that the subject matters of Claims 4-6, 8-14, and 16-25 are free of the prior art, and would be allowable when placed in independent form. By way of the foregoing amendments, Applicant has placed each of Claims 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 14, and 16 in independent form, canceled Claims 1 and 15, and made Claims 2, 3, and 7 dependent from Claim 9. The remaining claims are also dependent. Accordingly, all of the pending claims are in allowable forms.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)**

In the Office Action, at page 2, Claims 1-3, 7, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as reciting subject matters that are allegedly identically disclosed in U.S. Patent No. 4,397,356, issued to Retallick. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of these rejections.

While Applicant has obviated the foregoing rejections by placing all of the claims in allowable forms, Applicant reserves the right to file one or more continuation applications to further pursue the subject matters of the original claims, and does not acquiesce as to the propriety of the rejections.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejections of Claims 1-3, 7, and 15 are now moot, and respectfully requests withdrawal thereof.

**Conclusion**

Applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance. An early indication of the allowability of the application is therefore respectfully solicited.

If Mr. Wilson believes that a telephone conference with the undersigned would

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expedite passage of the present patent application to issue, he is invited to call on the number below.

It is not believed that extensions of time are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in accompanying documents. If, however, additional extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), and the undersigned respectfully requests that he be contacted immediately.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

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